

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2014

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20210

Dear Secretary Perez,

We write to call your attention to the following language included in the Conference Report of the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2014 pertaining to procurement of contracts for operation and maintenance of Job Corps Centers:

Contracts provided for the operation and maintenance of Job Corps facilities are generally let on a two-year basis, with as many as three option years depending on the quality of performance. When evaluating contract renewals or re-bids, due consideration should be provided to the federal investment already made in high-performing incumbent contractors as a part of a full, fair, and open competitive process. As part of this process, the Department of Labor (DOL) should consider documented past performance of student outcomes and cost-effective administration as important factors in Job Corps procurements.

The Department of Labor's current application of Federal Acquisition Regulation §19.502-2 prohibits incumbent Job Corps center operators from re-competing their own contracts, even when their centers are high performing. While we support broadening diversity among Job Corps contractors, the program's primary responsibility must be effective education and training of at-risk youth. We strongly believe Job Corps' unique mission requires greater quality consideration of each center's operations.

Within 90 days from the date of this letter we ask that the Department of Labor report to us on a strategy for applying quality considerations to Job Corps Center procurement practices.

Sincerely,


Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress

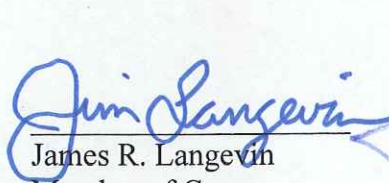

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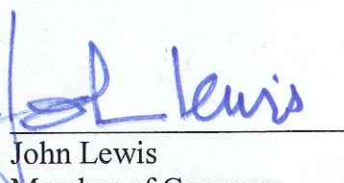

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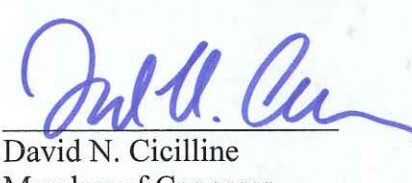

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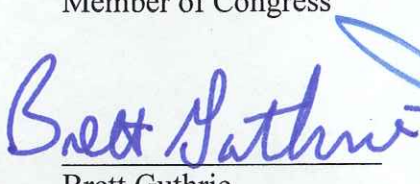

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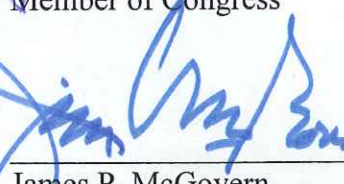

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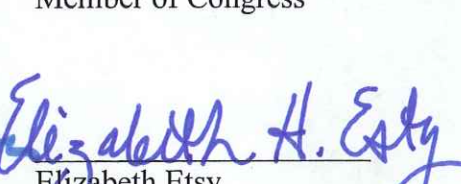

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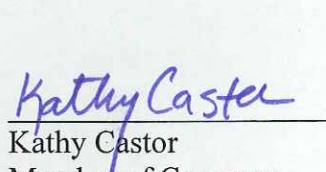

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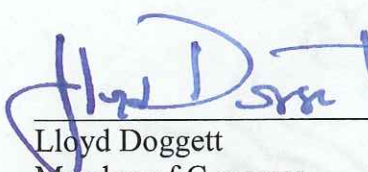

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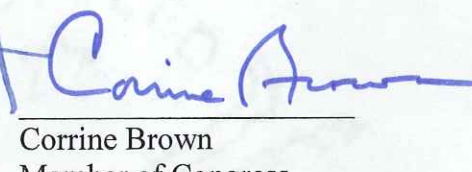

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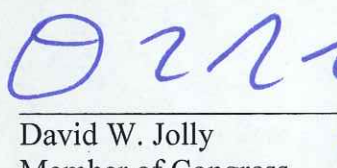

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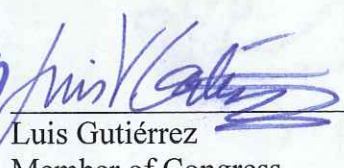

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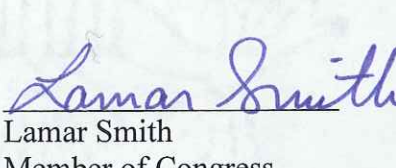

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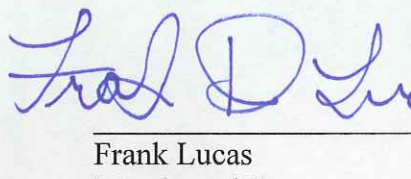

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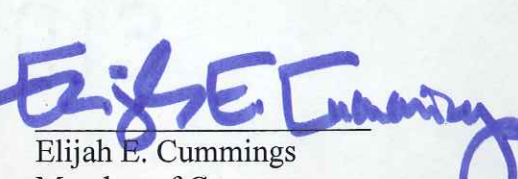

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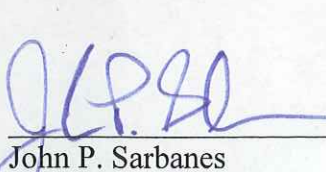

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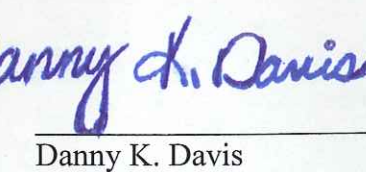

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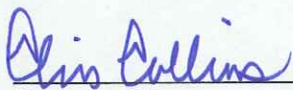

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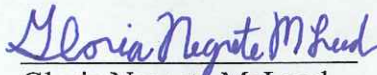
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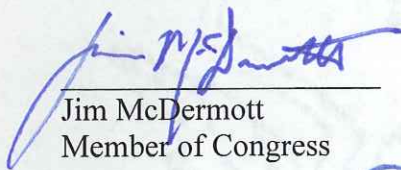
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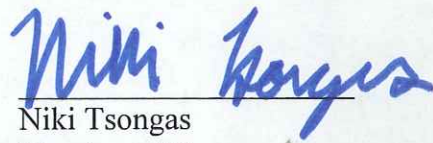
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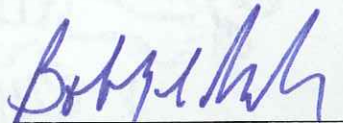
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